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Housing Authority Meeting

May 3, 2021

East Haven Senior Center, 91 Taylor Avenue, East Haven, CT 06512

Attendance: Chairwoman Barbara Natarajan, Michael Enders, Dave Sagnella and Michelle Benivegna

Called meeting to order at 7:02 pm

Roll call

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from April 5, 2021, Dave Sagnella makes a motion to approve minutes. Barbara, all in favor. No objections.

New Business: Update was given by Housing Director, Michelle Benivegna. We received a letter from HUD on April 14th that since the year 2017, they have not received an audit from East Haven Housing Authority. The Housing Authority from East Haven has not submitted audited financials since 2017 which would procedurally come from the auditors.

With many follow up phone calls from Benivegna and our Finance Director, it was discovered that it actually has not been submitted from the year 2014 to 2019, not 2017 like the letter originally stated. The Finance Director and Benivegna made numerous phone calls, calls were made to Imagineers and to Levitsky and Berney who performed the Town and Housing Authority Audits. We received the physical audits from Levitsky and Berney. Imagineers never mentioned anything to us about not receiving them either. The government uses a system that the auditors send the audits directly. All audits from 2014 to 2018 were given to Imagineers. It took some digging, but everything was found and reported after extensive research.

Dave Sagnella, stated this is approved by us and should be in past minutes. Michelle mentioned the audits were done, but just not submitted. Imagineers informed us that the last administration did not see this as a priority.

Jim Keeley reported to the board via letter read by Michelle. Clearmont and Associates are interested in doing this and last year's audits and will forward the contact info to the board.

Michelle said hopefully we will be engaging with a new firm for audits that has React access. Barbara asked if Jim was comfortable with this new firm. Michelle stated, depending on cost, will have to go out to bid.

Directors Report:

HUD is extremely cooperative, they have stated our voucher program is small, so they're not concerned.

We have all electronic copies of the audits now.

Michelle has been working close with our Imagineers caseworker to make the town website tab more functionable for residents, so they have more access to information and links to sign up for waiting lists and opportunities. I will work with Tina to update our website once the info is gathered and complete.

Dave asked if we have a list but we have a no availability due to the moratorium right now.

Lastly, Woodview, the superintendent said they're doing good. Covid did go through the building. The sale did not go through but the owner is making upgrades and facelifts and investing a substantial amount of money in the property. They have no interest in selling it now. They also thanked us for our support and trying to help.

Barbara inquired about openings at Messina Drive Apartments and Woodview Apartments. Dave asked if they take section 8 in these buildings. Messina Drive is privately owned, they would have to call them and get on their waiting list.

Dave asked how many vouchers we have here in East Haven. Michelle referred to the Imagineers report, 76 was last reported. Dave mentioned, the certificate travels with the person/family.

Benivegna asked if anyone has any other questions.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Michael Enders, seconded by Dave Sagnella. Meeting Adjourned at 7:28.

Respectfully Submitted by
Tina Hedley
Temporary Clerk